

SUIT THREATENED ON NEW STADIUM

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Lawyer for Broker Objects
as Estimate Board Votes
to Order Final Plans

By CHARLES G. BENNETT

The city's proposed \$15,000,-000 sports stadium won Board of Estimate approval by a vote of 20 to 2 yesterday, but it was immediately threatened with a taxpayer's court challenge.

The 55,000-seat stadium, to rise in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, is to serve as a home for New York's entry in the

new Continental Baseball League.

Borough President James J. Lyons of the Bronx cast the only two votes against the project. He made public a brief in which he criticized the board's action as an improper use of park land and as incorrect use of public funds.

David L. Benetar, a lawyer representing H. Thomas Osborne, a stockbroker, opposed the legality of the board's action with arguments similar to those of Mr. Lyons.

As a roll-call vote neared, Mr. Benetar said:

"I put the board on notice. This will be challenged in court."

The New York Yankees of the American League also came away with something from yesterday's board session. Mayor Wagner disclosed that he had been weighing possible means of

increasing available parking space at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx.

City Council President Abe Stark, in voting for the Queens stadium, said he would insist on a clause in the lease between the city and the Continental League stipulating that league games must never be broadcast on pay-television. All TV games there, he said, must be on free channels.

Yesterday's vote authorized Praeger-Kavanagh - Waterbury, engineers-architects, to prepare final plans for the stadium at a cost of \$442,500. The board also directed the Park Department to prepare the Queens park for the stadium at a cost of \$75,000.

William A. Shea, chairman of Mayor Wagner's special committee on baseball, assured the board that plans would go

forward immediately to complete the organization of the Continental League.

The other entries in the new league are Minneapolis-St Paul, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Denver, Toronto, Atlanta and Buffalo. The sponsors hope for Continental League baseball in New York in 1961—probably in the Polo Grounds—and in the new stadium in 1962.

Arthur A. Walsh, executive secretary of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, assailed any approval of a new stadium before additional parking was provided for Yankee Stadium. Only 1,450 cars can be parked there, he said.

The financing plans call for the city to build the Queens stadium, floating bonds outside its debt limit, and then to lease the structure to the baseball franchise owners.